
Rockwell Science Center (RSC) Technologies for WDM Components

DARPA WDM Workshop
April 18-19, 2000

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**Rockwell Science Center
Thousand Oaks, CA**

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Introduction

- RSC has been a center of excellence for more than 20 years, performing R&D on components applicable to telecomm, e.g., sources, detectors, high speed microelectronics, and other components
- Technology transition to former Rockwell businesses (e.g., Conexant Systems, ROK/NTSD to Alcatel), and spin-offs (e.g., Vitesse)
- New RSC initiatives target R&D and business opportunities, including those related to WDM and telecomm, for military and commercial applications

WDM Offers Significant Benefits to the Military

Examples of Applications

- Communication
 - Fiber Optic
 - Free Space Optical
 - Fiber & Free Space
 - Multi-Mode (RF & Optical)
- Replacing Wires on Military Platforms (Advantages: Weight, Size, Cost, Low/No EMI)
 - Sensors
 - Data
 - Control
- Others

Technology Requirements

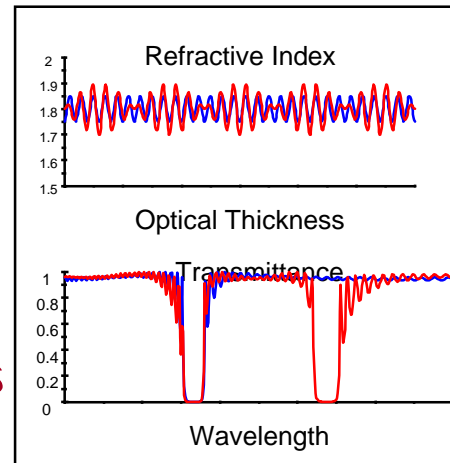
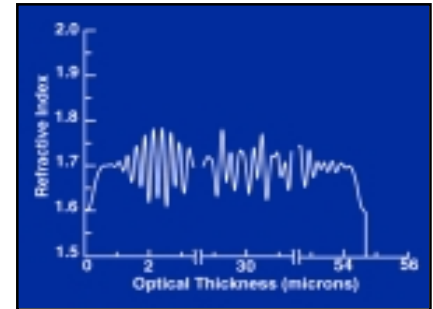
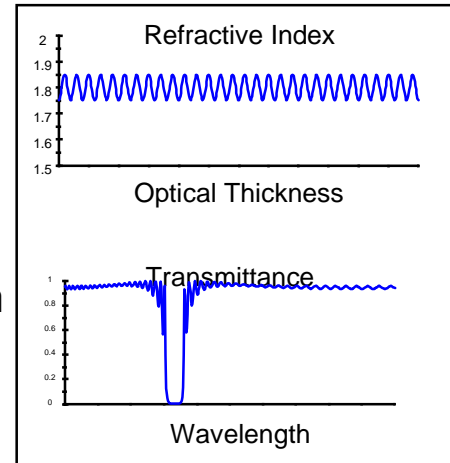
- DWDM
- Switching / Routing
- Infrastructure for Higher Speeds (e.g., 40 Gb/s)
- Fiber Dispersion Compensation
- Wide Band / Multi-Band WDM
- Beam Steering
- Eye Protection
- High Performance Vs Cost
- Robust & Affordable Components
-

"Rugate" Technology for Spectral Control

- **Rugate Technology**

- Sinusoidal index profile(s)
- Allows exquisite control of reflectivity and bandwidths for single or multi-line filters
- Multi lines are integrated, not stacked
- Graded index "Quintic" profile provides optimum index match to surrounding media
- Apodization reduces sidebands near reflection peaks
- Fabrication requires extreme control on index profile
- Suitable for non-conventional WDM

- **An AFRL concept that has proven to be a powerful method for spectral control**
- **RSC is the technology leader in rugates and related developments**
- **Physics of rugates is related to (1-D) photonic bandgap materials**



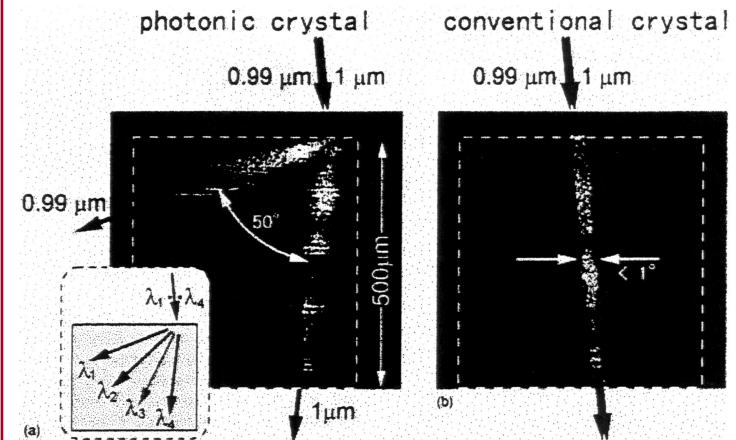
**Rugates + many
other thin film &
optical components
are now RSC
"products"**

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Photonic Crystals Offer New Capabilities for WDM

Photonic Crystal "Super-prisms"

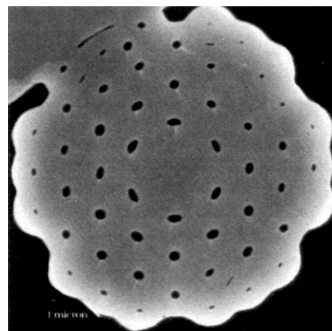
- Periodic structures with special properties
- Much larger (10-100X) dispersion than ordinary materials
- Super-refraction ($\sim 10X$) allows construction of new optical devices
- Offer promise for new WDM & related applications



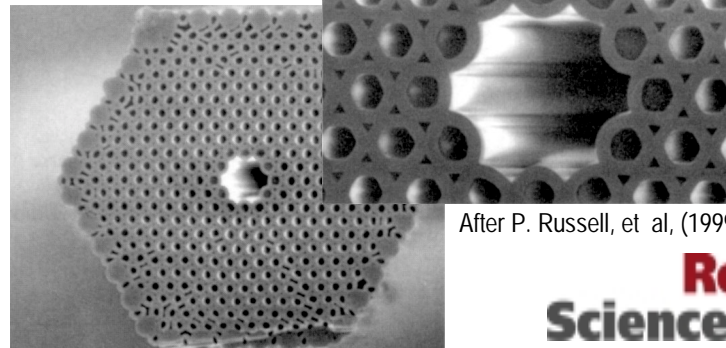
After H. Kosaka, et al, (1999) JP

Photonic Crystal Fibers

- Can confine light with or without photonic bandgap
- Single mode over much larger wavelength range
- Larger volume allows higher optical powers



After P.J. Bennett, et al (1999)

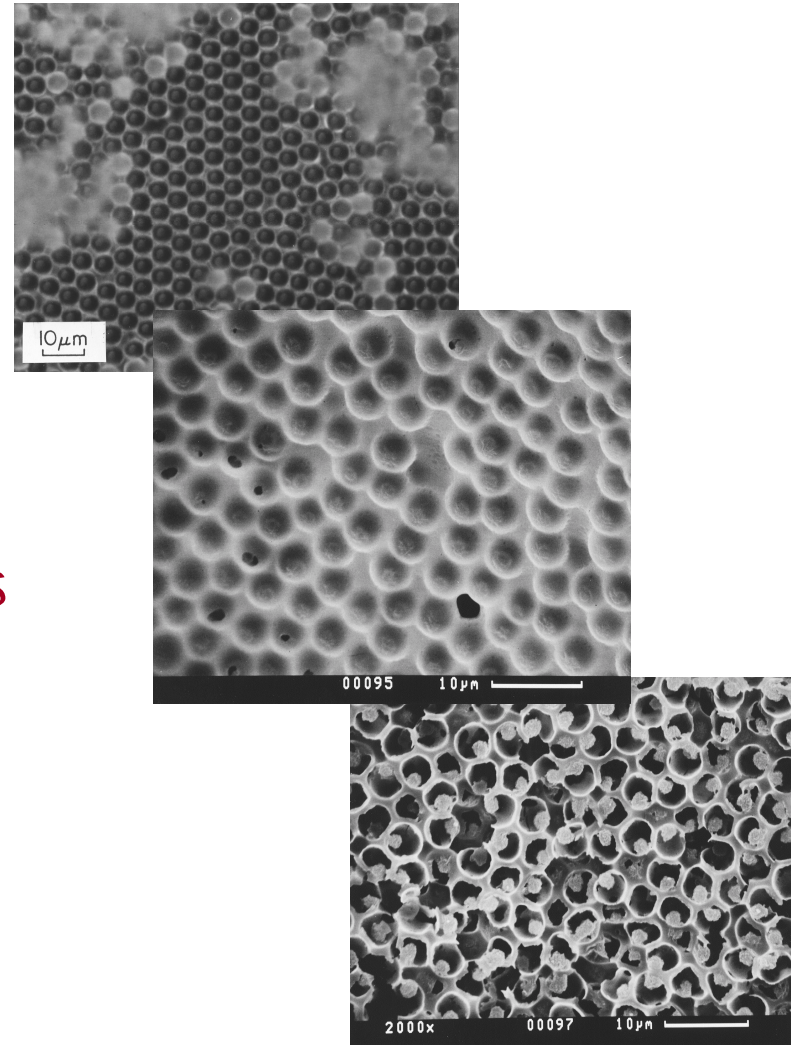


After P. Russell, et al, (1999)

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RSC Interests in Photonic Crystals

- Substantial history of RSC efforts in photonic bandgap materials and devices for microwave regime
- Recent focus on IR/Visible
- Collaborating with universities in structure design (UCLA, MIT)
- RSC material development approach is focused on self-organized materials
 - Dielectric
 - Metallized dielectrics
 - Tunable
- Applications (including WDM) drive RSC materials efforts



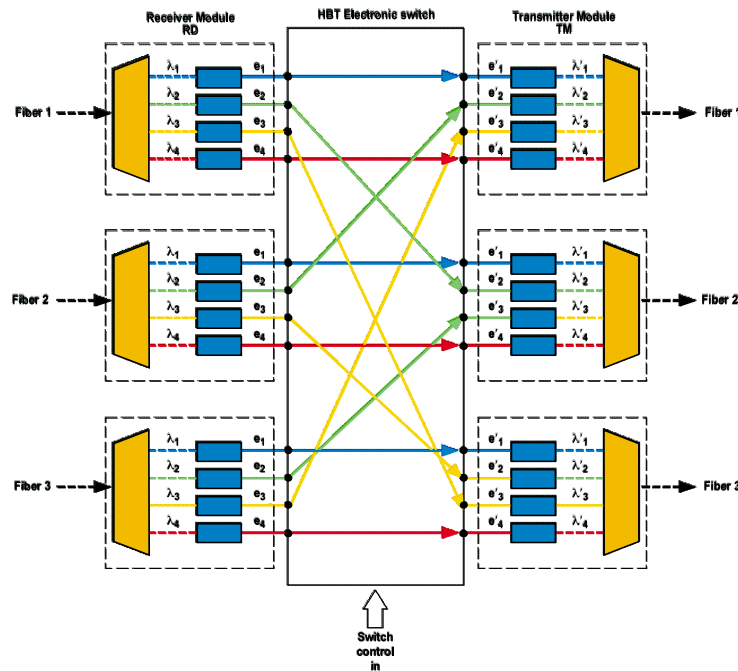
WDM and optical Switching Technologies

Some RSC Contributions:

- OFCS 1986-1989
 - 16x16 Optical fiber crossconnect
- ONTC 1993-1995
 - All Optical WDM Network Consortium
 - Developed all optical switching and components for WDM
- NTONC 1996-Present
 - National Transparent Optical Network
 - Exploratory High bandwidth WDM network
- WEST 1995-1998
 - WDM network switching using electronics

WEST Program (120 Gb/s Optical WDM Cross Connect Switch)

WDM with Electronic Switching Technology



Cross Connect Configuration

- 3x3 fiber switch
- 4 channels/fiber
- 10 Gb/s/channel

Electronic Switch Core

- OC192/OC48 compatible

Optical MUX/DEMUX

- ITU WDM channels

Key Technology

- Rockwell GaAs HBT
- Ortel DFB Laser/PIN

Advantages of an Electronic Core

- Data regeneration/retiming
- Wavelength translation
- Low crosstalk
- OC192/OC48 compatible
- Realizable with current state-of-the-art production technology
- Potential for additional processing of input signal (smart switch)

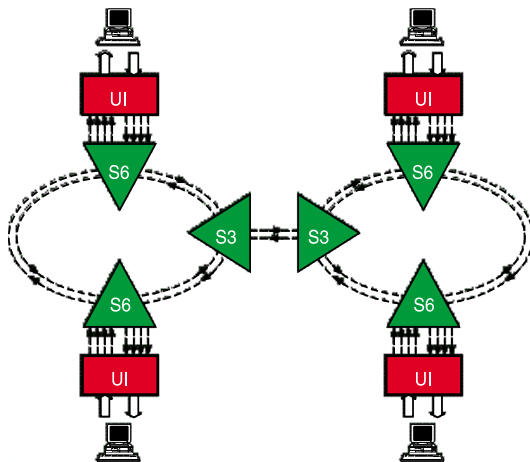
Advantages of WEST Switching Approach & Challenges for All-optical Approaches

Advantages:

- Easier to monitor
- Inherent Fault Localization
- Fast Switching
- Quasi-Optical Layer Protection
- Enhanced Compatibility

Applications:

- WDM Network cross-connect
 - OC-48 or OC-192 systems
 - Cross-connect switch
 - Wavelength translation
- Bi-directional SONET ring
 - Add/drop (S6)
 - Ring interconnection (S3)
- Distributed Computing
 - 40 Gb/s/fiber
 - 40 Km distance
 - Connect Caltech/JP
 - Supercomputers



Summary of WEST Accomplishments

- 3x3 WDM cross-connect system based on electronic switching
- ICs, optical devices, and modules for 4x10 Gb/s and 4x2.5 Gb/s lightwave transmission
 - ICs are currently in production
- 120 Gb/s 12x12 cross-connect switch IC, packaging, and module
 - Switch ICs and design innovations are now embodied in Commercially available products
- WDM link models and simulation tools
 - Simulation software now a successful product

Concluding Remarks

- **Multi-disciplinary RSC technologies for WDM components and applications:**
 - Optics, Photonics, Rugates, Cavity Filters, Micro-optics, Liquid Crystal Components & Devices, MOEMS
 - High Speed Microelectronics, Switch ICs, WDM Cross-connects, High speed Opto-electronics, MEMS
 - Key technology partnerships (e.g., Conexant, Boeing, Universities)
- **RSC activities range from basic R&D to (selected) low volume production ---- <http://www.rsc.rockwell.com>**
 - Interested in WDM with both fiber optic and free space comm
 - Interested in a number of other dual use applications of WDM
 - RSC efforts emphasize state-of-the-art and new approaches (e.g., WEST, “super-prism” effects)
- **IR/visible Photonic Crystals offer important new capabilities for potential WDM and other applications**